

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS

January 25, 2005

The Honorable,
The Board of Commissioners of Cook County

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Maldonado, Commissioners Gorman, Moreno, Peraica and Quigley (5)

Absent: Vice Chairman Silvestri and Commissioner Butler (2)

Also

Present: Commissioners Collins and Steele; Mark Kilgallon, Director of Human Resources; Camela Gardner, Assistant State's Attorney's, Civil Actions Bureau.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Law Enforcement & Corrections of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County met pursuant to notice on Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at the hour of 10:00 AM in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Your Committee has considered the following item and upon adoption of this report, the recommendations are as follows:

268698 **AN AMENDMENT TO THE COOK COUNTY RE-ENTRY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT ORDINANCE (04-O-16) (PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT).** Submitting a Proposed Ordinance Amendment sponsored by Bobbie L. Steele, Roberto Maldonado and Deborah Sims, County Commissioners, Co-Sponsored by Jerry Butler, Earlean Collins, John P. Daley, Elizabeth Ann Doody Gorman, Gregg Goslin, Carl R. Hansen, Joseph Mario Moreno, Joan Patricia Murphy, Anthony J. Peraica, Mike Quigley, Peter N. Silvestri, Larry Suffredin and Forrest Claypool, County Commissioners.

The following is a synopsis of the Proposed Ordinance Amendment.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COOK COUNTY RE-ENTRY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT ORDINANCE (04-O-16)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners shall enact the following ordinance to establish a Re-entry Employment Demonstration Pilot Program with the goal of enrolling one hundred (100) adults who are former offenders and residents of the County and with the goal of removing

barriers to Cook County government employment opportunities and to encourage participation by County officers and by private sector employers as a strategy for increasing public safety and reducing recidivism.

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE III. THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF REVIEW PANEL

ARTICLE IV. COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PARTICIPATION

ARTICLE V. EMPLOYMENT READINESS TRAINING AND COUNTY INTERNSHIP

ARTICLE VI. IMPACT OF COUNTY ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

ARTICLE VII. REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

ARTICLE VIII. FORMS AND FILING

***Referred to the Law Enforcement & Corrections Committee on 12/14/04**

****(Note: This item was also referred to the Department of Corrections Subcommittee on 12/14/04**

Mark Kilgallon, Director of Human Resources, stated that it is his understanding that individuals who will be part of the Re-Entry Employment Project would be hired by the County as employees and then they would be paid to go to the training program. Upon satisfactory completion of the training program, community-based organizations such as the Safer Foundation, as well as other organizations, should be directly involved with the selection process.

Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Peraica, moved to amend Article III., Section 3-1a and 3-1b. The motion carried.

Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Peraica, moved to amend Article IV., Section 4-1c. The motion carried.

Commissioner Gorman asked whether the County currently hires ex-offenders.

Mr. Kilgallon replied that the original ordinance was introduced to focus on the other constitutionally elected officials because President John H. Stroger, Jr., currently hires ex-offenders who meet the necessary requirements for the job and taking into consideration their past criminal record.

Commissioner Gorman asked Mr. Kilgallon whether he could provide statistics regarding this issue.

Mr. Kilgallon replied that such statistics would be difficult to obtain, but that he would look into the matter.

Camela Gardner, Assistant State's Attorney, cited the "Proposed Revised Ordinance" and stated that it provides that "The Review Panel will enter into a memorandum of understanding with selected "community-Based Organizations, such as North Lawndale Employment Network and Safer Foundation, to provide the serviced contained in ", Proposed Revised Ordinance, sect. 5-1.

Commissioner Maldonado stated that the new language in Article V, Section 5-1 should be more inclusive in reference to community-based organizations, that specifically the amended sentence would read "...community-based organizations, such as North Lawndale Employment Network..."

Ms. Gardner stated that the State's Attorney's Office recommends deleting all references to the specific entities referenced, or alternatively, indicating that these organizations are not an exhaustive list of possible organizations. This would ensure that the County has the flexibility to enter a memorandum of understanding in the future without need for a further revision to the Ordinance.

Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Peraica, moved to add new language to Article V. Section 5-1. The motion carried.

Commissioner Peraica, seconded by Commissioner Gorman, moved to amend Article V. Section 5-2. The motion carried.

Commissioner Peraica, seconded by Commissioner Gorman, moved to amend Article V. Section 5-4. The motion carried.

Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Peraica moved to delete Article VI. Section 6-1d. The motion carried.

Commissioner Peraica asked why a participant in this program would be subject to a Class A misdemeanor.

Ms. Gardner referred to following: The Proposed Revised Ordinance provides that "a person who knowingly uses or attempts to use a revoked Certificate of Completion in order to obtain or to exercise any right or privilege that they would not be entitled to obtain or to exercise without a valid Certificate of Completion is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor."...Proposed Revised Ordinance, sect 7.1(c).

Ms. Gardner stated that that the State's Attorney's Office recommends that this provision be revised to provide for a Class B or a Class C misdemeanors rather than a Class A misdemeanor, in order to conform with Article 7, Section 6(e) of the Illinois Constitution. She further stated that Class A misdemeanors are punishable by imprisonment terms of up to a year. The County of Cook, as a home rule entity, may not punish by imprisonment for more than six months unless authorized by the General Assembly, which has not occurred in this instance.

Commissioner Peraica, seconded by Commissioner Gorman, moved to amend Article VII. Section 7-1. The motion carried.

Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Peraica, moved the approval of Communication No. 268698 as amended. The motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

JANUARY 25, 2005

PAGE 4

Commissioner Peraica moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gorman. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on Law Enforcement &
Corrections

Roberto Maldonado, Chairman

Attest:

Michelle Harris, Secretary